



YUBA-BEAR RIVER PROJECT

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98-355

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October 14, 1998

Mr. Lester Snow
Director CALFED
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Meeting to Discuss Proposal for Reintroduction of Anadromous Fish above Englebright Reservoir in Yuba County

Dear Mr. Snow:

Nevada Irrigation District has learned that the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) in cooperation with the Yuba Watershed Restoration Group, the California Hydropower Reform Coalition and the Planning and Conservation League are requesting CALFED funding. The purpose of this funding is to conduct a "Cooperative" study to determine the feasibility of removing Englebright Dam on the Yuba River to allow Chinook Salmon and Steelhead access to historical spawning and rearing habitats.

Nevada Irrigation District, as a matter of record, is notifying you and others in the CALFED process, that we oppose the expenditure of CALFED's scarce financial resources, or moving forward with this application for funding for the following reasons:

1. The Nevada Irrigation District was never given an opportunity to comment or was notified of the so called "Cooperative Effort" to provide input into the process. This project has significant potential impact to our district's operations and others in the watershed.
2. We believe the application for funding from CALFED and from (SYRSL) is seriously flawed, misleading, and lacks input from our District, Yuba County Water Agency, and Pacific Gas and Electric.
3. Historic habitat is reported above Englebright as several hundred miles for anadromous species of fish. We believe the issue is to be disputed, and challenge this fact alone, as not eligible for funding under the CALFED process without undisputed facts.

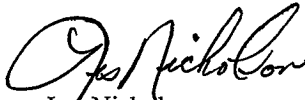
CALFED has before it a tremendous task and finite resources. Applications for these scarce financial resources must be based on accurate, verifiable facts. We believe the applicants such as SYRCL (and others) have an obligation to first confer with stakeholders to verify the facts and to provide a cooperative, collaborative effort with those stakeholders in the target watershed.

As you are aware, water projects of the NID effect the Middle Yuba River, Canyon Creek, South and North Yuba river, Bear River, and several tributaries to the watershed. Project facilities are located across a four hundred square mile area in Sierra, Nevada and Placer Counties. The water, power, and recreational opportunities made available through our Project have helped make possible the lifestyle and economic

success enjoyed by the people and businesses of Nevada, Placer, Yuba, and Sierra Counties. We have much to bring to such studies and do not wish them developed by a "closed club".

We recommend that you will take action to deny the application submitted, with the directive to the applicant that its resubmittal will be considered after consultation with NID along with all stakeholders potentially affected to assure the accuracy of the content.

With respect,



Les Nicholson
Hydro Manager

Cc: Noel Folsom, F.E.R.C.
Curtis Banky, CA. Fish & Game
John Hiscox, Fish & Game
Terry Moreford, PG&E
Jim Chatigny, NID
Don Wilson, YCWA